

# Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership

---

**Guernsey and Alderney**

Annual Report

2019



## Foreword



This is my first Annual Report as the Pan Island Independent Chair for Safeguarding Partnership Boards and I am delighted to report a successful past year of the partnership- making a positive difference to the residents of Guernsey and Alderney.

I have been particularly grateful for the warm welcome I have received and everyone's commitment to effective partnership working which continues to be a key element of success in keeping children safe across the islands.

The Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership (ISCP) has had a busy year- delivering commitments in areas such on line safety to address the ever increasing risks in this area including participation in the Digital Ace event.

Support to front line staff working with children and families is a key priority and an expanded training offer has been provided along with safeguarding supervision standards to enable staff to reflect on the more complex aspects of their work.

Soon after I took up my role, I was pleased to contribute to the excellent annual conference which we co-hosted with colleagues leading delivery of the Children and Young Peoples Plan. The conference was greatly enhanced with the input of young people who shared the findings of the Young Peoples Survey of 2019. We also benefited from expert speakers in areas such as child exploitation which has informed our priorities for 2020.

We want to ensure that when things go wrong, we can learn and improve which during the year was enabled by the completion of 2 serious case reviews. We also introduced a Rapid Review process to speed up this learning and ensure this gets back into practice in a timely way.

During 2019, we strengthened our work with charitable and voluntary organisations who are helping us hear directly from children and young people to ensure our work is grounded in the reality of the lived experience of those using island services.

Looking forward, we have a full work programme in 2020 which we hope will make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in the islands including work to address childhood neglect, harmful sexual behaviours and safeguarding risks from outside of the home.

We will also be developing multi agency safeguarding adult arrangements across the Bailiwick of Guernsey including mechanisms for gaining assurance about how local safeguarding partners act to help and protect adults at risk.

All of the above would not be possible without the commitment, expertise and tireless work of our current and former ISCP team along with the chairs of our Sub Groups who provide excellent leadership to drive improvements in our safeguarding work.

I would like to thank the ISCP, practitioners and managers across all agencies for their energy, hard work and continuing support to ensure we have the best possible safeguarding arrangements for children, young people and their families across Guernsey and Alderney.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. ...', is positioned above the title.

Pan Island Safeguarding Chair

## *Table of contents*

Foreword.....	2
Table of contents .....	4
Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark (Bailiwick of Guernsey).....	5
Population.....	5
Purpose of the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership .....	6
Children in need.....	7
Children at risk .....	8
Children in the child protection system.....	9
Children looked after .....	12
Section 2 - Governance and accountability arrangements .....	13
Membership.....	13
<b>Attendance</b> .....	14
Structure of the ISCP 2018 – 2019 .....	14
Business support and funding arrangements .....	15
Section 3 - Progress against the strategic priorities for 2019.....	17
1. Maximising capacity and resources.....	17
2. Managing partnership and engagement .....	18
3. Ensuring focus on vulnerable groups.....	19
4. Embedding learning and improvement .....	20
Section 4 - Priorities for 2020 .....	21
Section 5 - Reports from Sub-committees.....	22
ISCP Learning and Improvement Sub-committee .....	22
ISCP Digital Online Safety Group .....	24
Case Review Group .....	26
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).....	26
Closing comments from the Chair .....	27

## *Section 1 – Local background and context*

### **Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark (Bailiwick of Guernsey)**

Guernsey is the second largest of the Channel Islands. Along with Alderney, Herm and Sark, make up the Bailiwick of Guernsey. At present it is only Guernsey, Alderney and Herm who are subject to the legislation that underpins multi agency child protection practice in the islands; the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2008 (the Children Law), which was implemented in January 2010. Whilst the model of Child Protection shares similarities with England and Wales, the main difference is through the statutory footing (through the Children's Law) of the Office of the Children's Convenor and the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (the CYCT). The CYCT is a welfare-based system, modelled on the Scottish Children's Hearings system. It replaces the Court in the majority of cases where there is a need for compulsory intervention either to protect children and young people from harm or to support children and families to change harmful or risky behaviours. The CYCT therefore is an important part of the overall child safeguarding system, operating alongside processes for early help, multi-agency support for children in need, child protection case conferences and the juvenile court.

### **Population**

At the end of December 2018 there was an overall combined population of **64,522** for the islands.(Guernsey and Alderney) The child population for the islands at the end of December 2018 was **11,466** (under 18) – 11,256 in Guernsey and 210 in Alderney. The child population accounts for approximately 18% of the total population for both islands, although the percentage for Alderney alone is approximately 10%. Population statistics in both islands indicate a dynamic population with most migrants in Guernsey and Alderney being of working age. More information and analysis of population trends can be found on the States of Guernsey website: <https://gov.gg/data>.

## Purpose of the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership

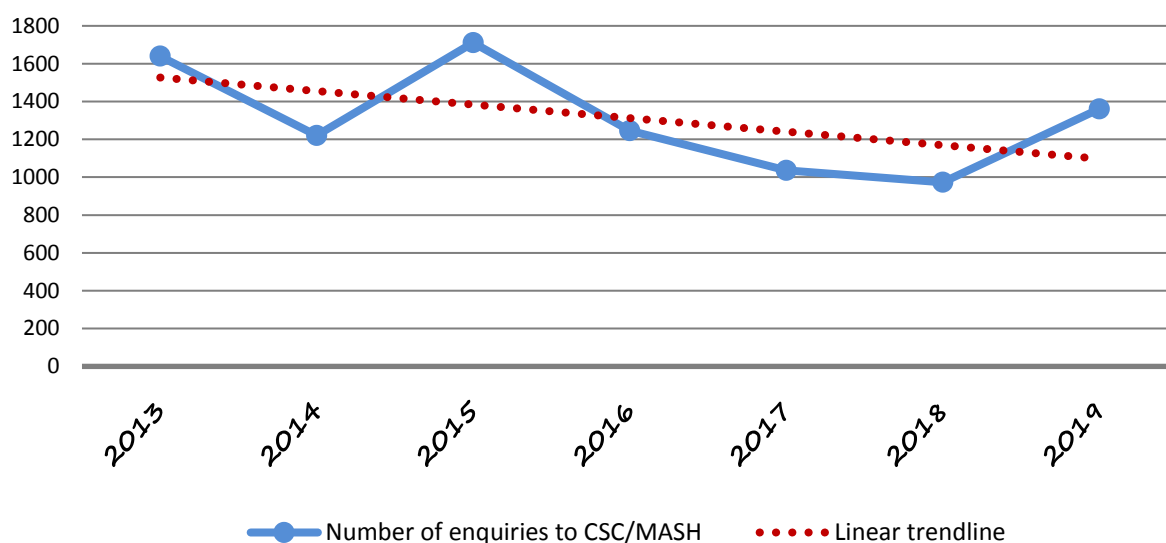
The Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership is formally known as the Islands Child Protection Committee in the Children Law (soon to be changed to the ISCP within forthcoming revision to the Children's Law) The ISCP is made up of senior representatives from agencies working with children and families in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Its overriding purpose is to:

- **co-ordinate what is done by each agency represented on the Committee for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**
- **promote effective co-operation between all persons involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**
- **provide appropriate guidance to employees working with children in Guernsey and Alderney**
- **review any case or incident where a child has died or suffered serious harm.**

Cases are intended to be reviewed by the ISCP in those circumstances when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either the child has died; or been seriously harmed **and** there is cause for concern as to the way agencies have worked together to safeguard the child. The purpose is to identify lessons and to ensure that local practice is continuously improving and evolving based on feedback and experience from both the Bailiwick and international best practice in safeguarding children and young people.

The following graphs provide an overview of child protection activity during 2018/2019 including trends between years. This supports decisions of the ISCP regarding multi agency work programmes, training plans and informs further development of policies and procedures to support front line practice.

## Children in need



*Note: the systems for making and recording referrals have changed over the years and the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) was introduced in 2015 as a process for accessing multi-agency support. Fluctuations in the number of recorded enquiries is partly indicative of those changes.*

The definition of need in the Children Law is where children are unlikely to maintain a reasonable standard of health and development without additional services.

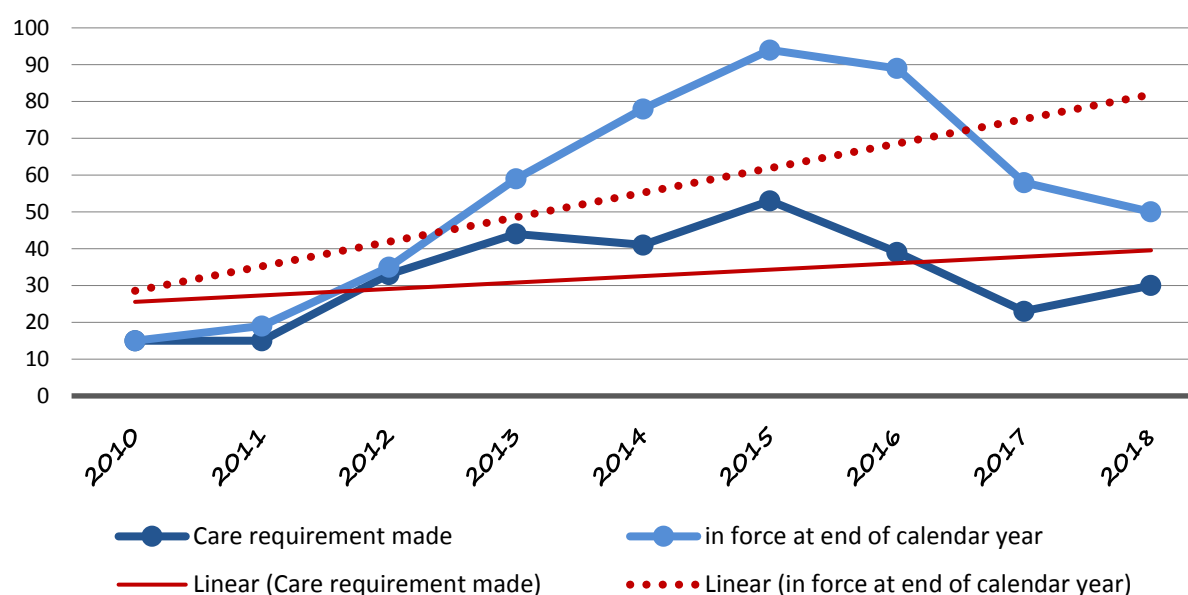
The MASH was set up in March 2015. The data from 2016 provided the first full year of statistics from referrals to the MASH when 50% of enquiries led to early help being provided by MASH and through single or multi-agency support plans. The subsequent figures have been 45% in 2017, 67% in 2018 and 80% in 2019. Some of the changes in response over the years are a result of developing recording methods and classifications. As well as the observed rise in early help services there was a reduction in referrals for social work assessment from MASH from 14% of enquiries in 2018 to 5% in 2019.

The Police are still the main source of enquiries into MASH (33%) and send significantly more notifications to MASH than show up in the statistics. This is because enquiries that concern cases already open to children's social care are not recorded as enquiries. The majority of the remaining enquiries come from education (18%) and health (13%).

The rate of repeat enquiries into MASH (within 12 months) was 39% in 2019, up slightly on the previous year when it was 31%. However this was down from the 2017 rate when it had been 47%. Enquiries were made in relation to 903 individual children in 2019, up from 770 in 2018 and 763 in 2017.

Enquires into MASH include all contacts with MASH about concerns for children, excluding those for children who already have an allocated social worker. Enquiries are not necessarily accepted as referrals to MASH as they might not meet relevant thresholds or they could just be additional information from other agencies for referrals that are already accepted. The rate of repeat enquiries does not equate to the rate of re-referrals, which is a better measure for how the system is meeting the needs of children. From 2019 onwards the rate of **re-referrals** as opposed to enquiries has been captured. The data has been seeking to capture re-referrals on the basis this presents a more accurate record of cases being discussed at MASH. The MASH manager in conjunction with the Police, undertake a triage system in regards to enquiries to ensure that cases being progressed to and discussed are relevant in that they require multi agency oversight and meet the criteria for discussion. On this basis, cases **re-referred** totalled 13.1% of cases discussed within MASH meetings in 2019. Going forwards, this will be the main data recorded (as opposed to enquiries) and the data collated for 2020 will be in next year's report, which allow an initial identification of trends in regards to re-referrals.

## Children at risk



Within the Children Law, a child is considered to be at risk if their circumstances might meet the grounds for compulsory intervention. These include those children who: have suffered or are likely to suffer physical or sexual abuse or significant impairment to their health or development; have misused drugs or alcohol; have committed a criminal offence or displayed behaviour that is violent or destructive; or, are failing to attend school without good reason.

Anyone who believes that compulsory intervention may be necessary to ensure the provision of adequate care, protection, guidance or control for a child can make a referral to the Children's Convenor. Where the grounds for compulsory intervention are met, the Convenor

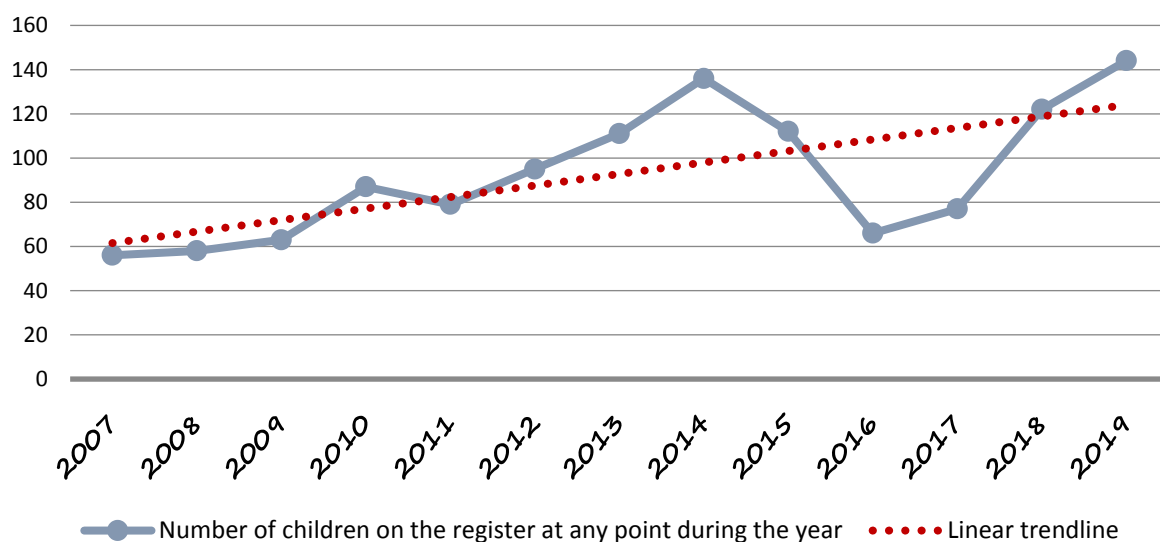


can refer the case to the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT). If the CYCT decide compulsory intervention is required they can make a legal order called a care requirement.

There was a decrease in referrals to the Children's Convenor in 2019, 264 referrals in relation to 183 children. Offence referrals reduced by 19% and non-offence referrals by 39% in comparison to 2018. The number of offence referrals has decreased over the last 10 years with the number received in 2019 below the 10 year average. Offence referrals continue to outnumber non offence referrals by 2:1.

There was a small reduction in both the number of children who were made subject to a care requirement in 2019 and those who were subject to a care requirement at the end of 2019.

### Children in the child protection system



The rate of children on the child protection register at any point during the year was  
**125.6 / 10,000**

Local authorities in England had a range between 259.1 and 0 with an average of  
**106 / 10,000**

The Committee for Health & Social Care (HSC) has a duty to carry out initial inquiries when it is notified of a concern about a child or young person. When it appears to children's social care that a child might have suffered, or be likely to suffer, serious harm through abuse or neglect a strategy discussion will take place to decide whether there should be a joint

investigation with the police and plan for the immediate protection of a child. In cases of unborn babies, a pre-birth planning meeting will be held to decide whether a social work assessment is necessary. Through the course of investigation and assessment, if it is felt that a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, serious harm then a child protection case conference will take place. The purpose of the conference is to decide with the parents and relevant professionals if the child needs a child protection plan. If it is thought that they do need a plan, then the child's name will be placed on the child protection register.

The numbers of strategy discussions, pre-birth planning meetings and child protection registrations can give an indication of trends in child abuse and the service response to it. However, many children who experience abuse or neglect might not be identified by statutory services, so the figures do not necessarily reflect the prevalence of need in the islands.

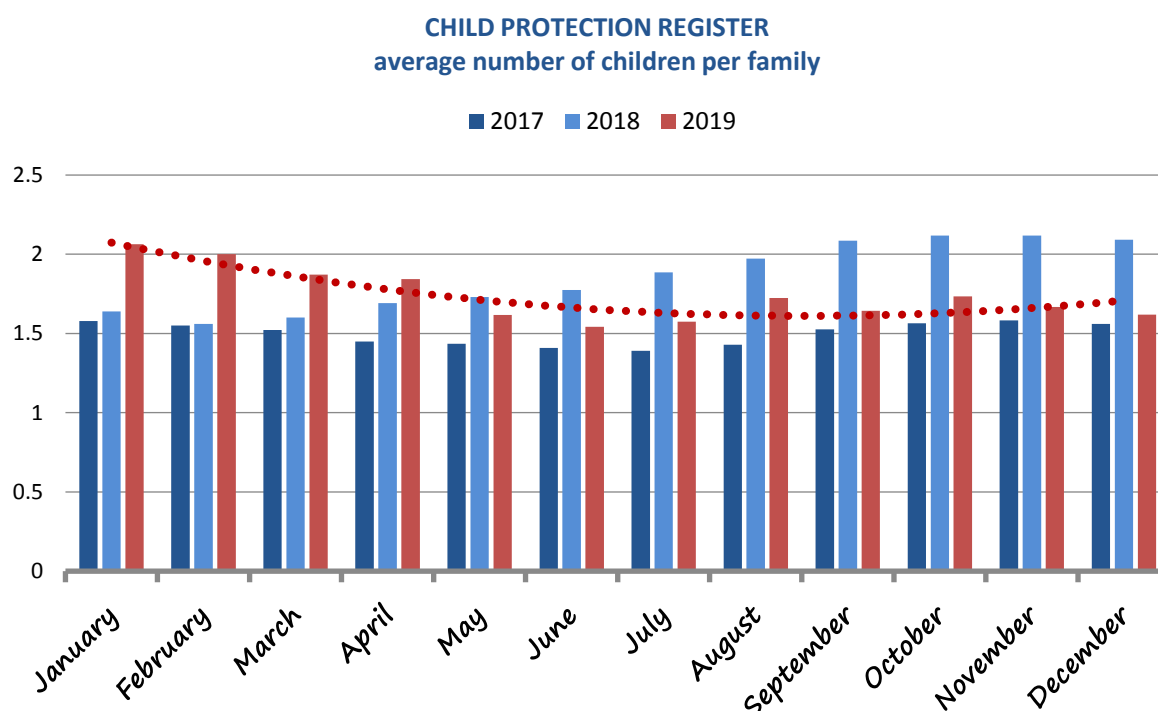
In 2019 there was an increase in the number of children on the child protection registration over the course of the year from 64 at the end of January to 81 by the end of December. There were 75 new registrations over the year and 63 de-registrations with a total of 144 children on the child protection register at any point during the year. This equates to a rate of 125.6 per 10,000 children, up from 106.8 in 2018.

In England the rate of children with child protection plans was 99.3 per 10,000, with a range between 259.1 and 0 across all local authorities.

The rate of children on the register at the end of the reporting year was 70.6 in Guernsey and Alderney compared to 43.7 in England, with a range between 138 and 0 across all local authorities. The relatively small population in Guernsey and Alderney accounts for some fluctuation in local data across the year and between years.

*The average number of children (under 16) per family in the general population was 1.7 in 2017.*

Parental factors of substance misuse, histories of violence and mental health issues are still the most commonly identified for children on the child protection register with histories of violence being the highest identified. Of the 144 children on the register at some point during 2019, 81% were affected by one or more of these factors with 21% affected by all three.



There was a 51% increase in number of strategy discussions and pre-birth planning meetings between 2018 and 2019, following a 13% decrease in 2018. Some of the increase in 2019 might be a result of the new recording system for Children's Social Care. There were 249 strategy discussions and 30 pre-birth planning meetings in relation to 302 children.

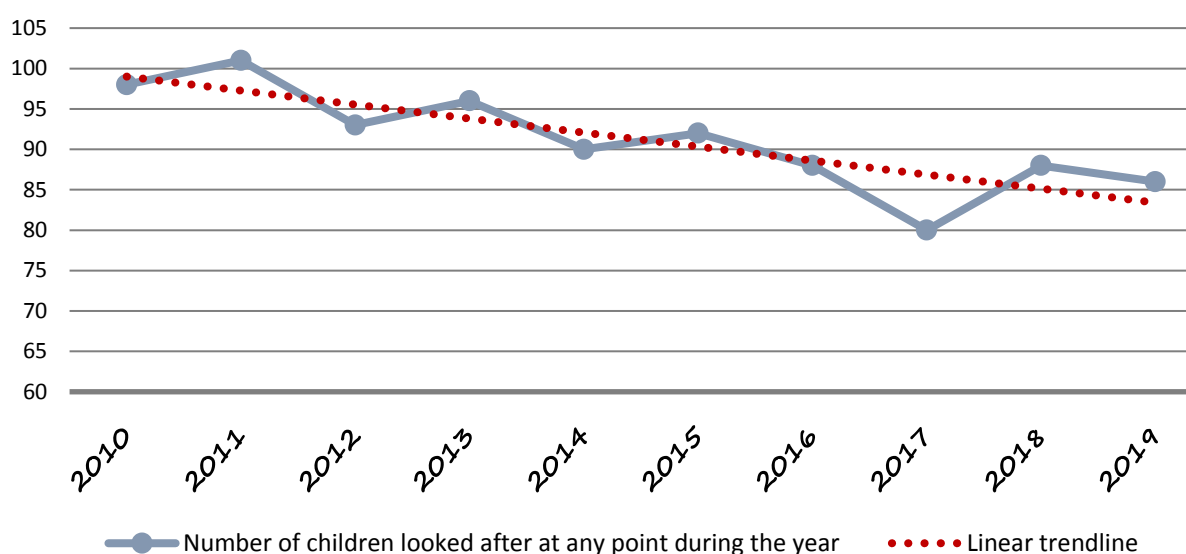
For the children whose names were removed from the Guernsey and Alderney child protection register in 2019, none of them had been on the register for longer than two years. This was an observed reduction from 1.9% in 2018 and 10.5% in 2017. The comparable figure in England for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 was 3.3%, with a range between 11.4% and 0% across local authorities.

However, re-registration rates within 12 months rose from 0% in 2018 to 5.3% in 2019 with a total re-registration rate of 26.6%, up from 14.4% the previous year.

Emotional abuse was the highest category for registration at 36%, up from 34% in 2018. Registrations for neglect in Guernsey and Alderney rose from 19% to 24% and registrations under multiple categories fell to 31% from 38%. Children can be registered under four categories; emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. Multiple category registrations are where more than one category has been identified at the child protection conference. Of those multiple category registrations 85% included emotional abuse and 80% included physical abuse.

Domestic abuse was the most commonly identified need for referrals into MASH at 18%, followed by neglect at 15% and child mental health issues at 13%.

## Children looked after



Children looked after are defined here as those who are accommodated by the Committee for Health & Social Care (HSC). Some children are looked after for short periods at a time while others are looked after on a long-term basis or go on to be adopted. Children can be looked after as the result of a Court Order or Care Requirement made by the CYCT, or on a voluntary basis, by agreement with their parents.

In total there were 86 children looked after during 2019, This is a slight decrease on 2018 when the total was 88. The general trend since 2010 is that there has been a decline in the number of children being looked after by HSC. This compares to a generally increasing trend for children looked after in all four UK nations. The number of children being looked after off-island continued to fall, from 10% in 2018 to less than 5% in 2019.

The rate of children looked after at any time during the year was approximately  
**75 / 10,000**

The comparable figure in England was approximately  
**89 / 10,000**

The main identified need for children becoming looked after was experience of abuse or neglect at 66% with parental illness or disability second at 14%. The majority of the children were looked after in short term foster placements and Community Parenting Orders were the most common form of legal status, with a reduction in the use of Emergency Child Protection Orders.

## *Section 2 – Governance and accountability arrangements*

### **Membership**

The ISCP is made up of senior representatives from the main States Committee areas for safeguarding children, the Office of the Children’s Convenor as well as representatives from the private and voluntary sectors and the States of Alderney.

The ISCP is chaired by someone with extensive experience of safeguarding and organisational management at a very senior level and who is independent of services in the islands. The ISCP was chaired by Simon Westwood from October 2015 to October 2019. The ISCP thanks Simon for all this hard work and dedication and wish him luck in his future safeguarding work in the UK.

Since October 2019 the ISCP has been chaired by Sarah Elliott, who has also been appointed as chair of the Jersey Safeguarding Partnership Board in a pan- island role. Sarah will be working to maximise links between the islands and improve safeguarding for children and adults at risk across the Channel Islands.

After a career in the National Health Service as a nurse and health visitor, Sarah was the Chief Nurse for the South of England, where she led on the quality and safeguarding agenda along with multi agency initiatives such as the Transforming Care Programme for People with a Learning Disability.

Prior to commencing with the ISCP, Sarah completed a 3-year contract as the Independent Chair for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

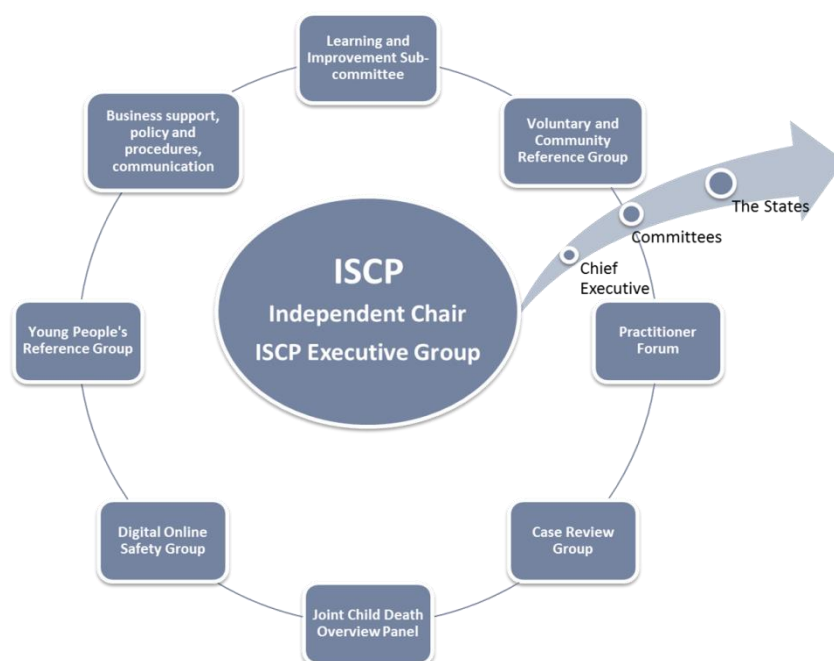
Sarah is a member of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for England which was formed in July 2018. She is also a special advisor with the Care Quality Commission and an Assessor with the College of Policing for senior policing appointments.

## Attendance

Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership Attendance at meetings 2019 (6 meetings in total)	
Dept/Organisation	No. of meetings attended
Independent Chair	6
Health & Social Care	6
Home	6
Police	5
Education, Sport & Culture	6
Alderney	2
Voluntary Agencies Representative	6
Paediatrician	4
Convenor	5
Primary Care	5
CAMHS	3
Safeguarding Named Nurse (joined February)	5

## Structure of the ISCP 2018 – 2019

The ISCP has an Independent Chair to provide leadership, challenge and effective scrutiny of safeguarding practice. The Independent Chair reports directly to the ISCP Executive Group which meets three times a year to discuss progress and issues raised through the ISCP. The Executive Group is chaired by the Chief Executive of the States of Guernsey and is made up of the Chief Secretaries of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care, the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and the Committee *for* Home Affairs.



## Business support and funding arrangements

The ISCP is supported through a full-time business manager, an interagency training coordinator and a part-time administrative assistant, and has an annual core budget of £78,000, funded through contributions from the three main Committees *for* Home Affairs, Education, Sport & Culture and Health & Social Care. The Committee *for* Health & Social Care funds the business manager post, provides office space and facilities for the ISCP support team as well as contributing to the core budget. The Committee *for* Health & Social Care agreed to provide additional £50,000 for the training coordinator post, which was recruited to in 2018.

### Core budget expenditure

	Annual projection - 2019	Actuals - 2019	Variation from projection - 2019
<b>Contributions</b>			
HSC	-32,334	-32,334	
Home	-13,333	-13,333	
Education	-32,333	-32,333	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-78,000</b>	<b>-78,000</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Independent Chair	18,000	21,974	-3,974
Established staff	79,551	63,749	15,802
LSCB chairs Association	1,500	1,500	0
Website/procedures	300	160	140
Annual conference	5,000	4,571	429
Travel and accommodation	7,000	3,846	3,154
Incidental expenses	1,000	133	867
Venue hire	1,500	390	1,110
Catering	3,336	3,431	-95
COW operational	4,000	3,852	148
COW legal	5,944	720	5,224
	<b>127,131</b>	<b>104,326</b>	<b>22,805</b>
	<b>49,131</b>	<b>26,326</b>	<b>22,805</b>

The observed overspend in the budget is due largely to the addition of the interagency training coordinator post to the ISCP budget in 2018. The post was recruited to in May 2018 but became vacant in September 2019, which explains the variation to the projected spend.

Funding for the post was agreed by the Committee *for* Health & Social Care over and above the contribution made to the core budget.



## Section 3 – Progress against the strategic priorities for 2019

The strategic priorities for 2019 remained as: maximising capacity and resources; managing partnership and engagement; ensuring focus on vulnerable groups; embedding learning and improvement. In the business plan for 2019 there were 12 actions identified against these four priorities.

### 1. Maximising capacity and resources

- *Support development of the interagency training coordinator post to disseminate learning from case reviews, build engagement with safeguarding children practitioners and facilitate the development of some practitioners as trainers.*
  - *Continue to monitor and support the development of suitable forensic examination facilities for the assessment, support and investigation of child sexual abuse.*
  - *Contribute to the development of interagency safeguarding arrangements for children and adults.*
- The interagency training coordinator, Linda Roberts, developed the level 3 safeguarding training into a series of 2 to 3 hour modules, into which she incorporated training on the [information sharing guidance](#), the [Care and Support Framework](#), the [MASH](#), the [Escalation Procedures](#) and attending case conferences. She also worked with the Children's Convenor to develop a module on the Children's Convenor and the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT) process. Other level 4 courses that were developed as a direct response to learning from case reviews were on parental mental health, disguised compliance and the Graded Care Profile (for assessing neglect). Linda also developed twilight training sessions for those people who found attending courses in the daytime difficult and she also ran bespoke training for some organisations that were unable to release staff for regular training sessions. Linda moved to a different post in September 2019 but has remained involved in delivering level 2 safeguarding training and the level 4 course on safeguarding children with disabilities. The ISCP would like to thank her for all the hard work she put into developing the interagency training.
  - The ISCP have continued to push for a solution to the lack of facilities for on-island assessment, support and investigation of sexual abuse. The Sexual Assault Suite opened in March 2019, although it is not currently able to offer paediatric examinations due to the lack of a suitably qualified and experienced paediatrician. During 2019 it was possible to access facilities in Jersey if needed, but a long-term solution still needs to be agreed.
  - A task and finish group was set up for the development of multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of adults at risk. It is anticipated that a partnership, similar to the ISCP will be convened early in 2020 to promote safeguarding for adults at risk, to help develop policies and procedures, and to scrutinise interagency safeguarding arrangements. The new independent chair, Sarah Elliott, will chair the partnerships for both children and adults at risk

## 2. Managing partnership and engagement

- *Continue to press partner agencies for arrangements that will meet the role of a Designated Safeguarding Doctor in full.*
  - *Further develop new processes for engaging frontline practitioners in feedback on safeguarding issues experienced in practice.*
  - *Explore the use of social media to engage and inform the local safeguarding children workforce.*
- A UK based Designated Safeguarding Doctor was appointed towards the end of 2019.
  - Engagement with front line practitioners was developed in particular through utilising interagency training and joint work with the Children and Young People's Plan. The annual conference run jointly with the Children and Young People's Plan was a valuable form of networking and updating on relevant safeguarding issues. Another important development for the engagement of frontline practitioners in highlighting safeguarding issues in practice was the piloting of the Rapid Review process for child safeguarding practice reviews developed in England. Practitioners involved in the pilot found the process useful and this will continue to be implemented in 2020. In addition, members of the ISCP and Learning and Improvement Sub-committee were invited to take part in a workshop with the Jersey Safeguarding Partnership Board on the Bexley Learning Hub approach to managing safeguarding arrangements. This approach is focused on engaging frontline practitioners in learning events and includes direct feedback sessions with practitioners as well as children and families. It is hoped that the ISCP will be able to develop a similar approach for involving all relevant partners in identifying and working on local safeguarding priorities.
  - The use of social media as a method for engaging with frontline practitioners is an area that needs development during 2020.

### 3. Ensuring focus on vulnerable groups

- *Maintain links with the Youth Forum and Youth Commission to ensure the views of children and young people continue to be considered in relation to safeguarding issues.*
  - *Continue to work with the Children and Young People's Plan implementation group to help maintain a focus on the emotional health and welfare of children.*
  - *Continue to monitor and assess the impact of initiatives aimed at supporting emotional health and welfare of children in the islands.*
- The ISCP have continued to work closely with the Youth Forum and Youth Commission through involvement of members with the partnership and its sub-committees.
  - The ISCP have continued to work closely with the [Children and Young People's Plan](#) (CYPP) implementation group and fully support the work the CYPP are doing with UNICEF based on children's rights. The ISCP and CYPP implementation group held another joint conference in November 2019, following the successful conference in 2018. The conference included an update on the progress of Rights Respecting Schools initiative in Guernsey and Alderney, along with plans for some schools to move from the bronze to silver award. Some UNICEF representatives gave a presentation on the Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme.

Members of the Youth Forum and Health Improvement Commission also gave a presentation on the [Guernsey Young People's Survey 2019](#). The survey had added more questions about emotional health and wellbeing and found that secondary school students showed more concern in their emotional health and wellbeing than primary students. There had also been a rise in the number of secondary students reporting low self-esteem and a reduction in the number reporting high self-esteem. The percentage of secondary students reporting they were glad to be who they are and who generally feel happy also reduced.

The emotional health and wellbeing of children was also promoted through presentation at the conference from the South West Grid for Learning on Online Safety in a Modern World and through a presentation on Contextual Safeguarding from Dr Lauren Wroe of the University of Bedfordshire, which considers the extrafamilial risks to children e.g. among peers, in gangs or at school. Work on developing a Contextual Safeguarding Framework for Guernsey and Alderney will begin in 2020.

#### 4. Embedding learning and improvement

- *Consider barriers to using escalation procedures to raise concerns about interagency safeguarding practice and review the ISCP Resolution of Professional Disagreements procedures.*
  - *Publish and publicise the updated information sharing guidance for practitioners providing services to children, young people, parents and carers.*
  - *Consider the cumulative pressures of work in the child protection system highlighted in the 2018 joint audit exploring causes of delay and drift.*
- 
- Further training on the escalation procedures was incorporated into the level 3 safeguarding training to encourage use of the procedures and consider barriers to using them. The procedures were clarified and agreed and a pilot Learning and Improvement Resolution Panel was convened (stage 5) to discuss a case. The panel was found to be useful and a briefing to cover the learning points identified was produced. The ISCP will need to encourage more use of the procedures and proactively seek cases to discuss at stage 5 when managers have not been able to resolve differences.
  - The [information sharing guidance](#) was published on the ISCP website and was widely disseminated. A [short version](#) was also produced for ease of access, covering the seven golden rules for sharing information as well as a flow chart to help decision making in line with data protection principles.
  - The outgoing chair of the ISCP, Simon Westwood, raised the concerns about cumulative pressures in the child protection and safeguarding system with the ISCP Executive Group who agreed to further explore the possible causes and seek solutions to the pressures highlighted by ISCP members. The ISCP will continue to monitor and highlight pressures in the system as necessary.

## *Section 4 – Priorities for 2020*

The ISCP held a planning event in December 2019 to take stock of the picture of safeguarding need and risk and to determine how best to use its resources to maximise the impact of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The following priorities were agreed and have subsequently been developed as clear work programmes with measurable outcomes.

- Continuing focus on addressing risks from on-line abuse
- Development of a Neglect Strategy including promotion of the Graded Care Profile tool across agencies.
- Definition and focus on physical abuse with potential for joint work with Jersey
- Development of a Contextual Safeguarding Framework with associated risk assessment tools
- Joint programme with the NSPCC and Jersey Safeguarding Partnership on understanding and addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviours
- A refresh of the Learning and Improvement framework with consideration of the Bexley Learning Hub model
- Developing the response to serious child safeguarding incidents including embedding the Rapid Review process
- Developing engagement and communication with voluntary organisations

## *Section 5 – Reports from Sub-committees*

### **ISCP Learning and Improvement Sub-committee**

The sub-committee was chaired by Chief Inspector Clare Cuthbert throughout 2019 and significant progress was made on priorities in the ISCP business plan. Additional training was provided, particularly in relation to learning from local case reviews. The [information sharing guidance](#) was finalised and published on the ISCP website. Progress was also made in relation to the sexual assault suite, the Designated Doctor role and further consideration of pressures in the child protection system.

The ISCP were pleased to have the information sharing guidance endorsed by the Data Protection Commissioner and are grateful for the advice she was able to offer in drafting the new guidance. This has now been published on the ISCP website. The guidance was widely disseminated along with a [brief guide](#) for ease of reference. Training has also been designed and delivered in relation to the new guidance, which reflects recent changes to data protection laws.

The new sexual assault suite was opened in 2019 and the facilities are being used. However, it remains difficult for a forensic paediatrician to maintain the necessary level of experience locally due to the size of the population and the low number of cases identified. This means that the suite was not used for pre-pubescent children, who could travel to Jersey for examination while other local solutions were sought.

There have also been positive developments in relation to fulfilling the role of Designated Doctor with the Committee for Health & Social Care negotiating the provision of this service with relevantly experienced professionals.

The revised terms of reference for the sub-committee's quality assurance group were agreed and the group continued to meet regularly to review cases where children had been on the child protection register for 15 months or more, were re-registered or where there was a disagreement about registration. The case reviews identify broad learning themes which included the need to: clarify the process for seeking specialist assessment; improve the process for quality assurance of social work assessments; monitor conference attendance and recording; monitor levels of agency reports to conference; encourage use of the Graded Care Profile; and, encourage clarity in child protection plans.

Regular safeguarding training has been delivered throughout 2019, although the dedicated interagency training coordinator (Linda Roberts) left her post during the year to take up a new post within the States of Guernsey. She has continued to support the interagency training offer from her new role, for which the ISCP are very grateful, and a new training coordinator is expected to be appointed in 2020.

Linda's main achievements in developing the ISCP training was the development of system for training needs analysis, the redesign of the level 3 safeguarding course, from a one-day course to shorter, modular sessions covering: information sharing, the care and support framework, MASH, Children Law and the CYCT and child protection case conferences. These have been well received throughout 2019 and provide a means of covering a wider variety of safeguarding issues, which can be developed further. Linda also supported the development of course material for safeguarding of disabled children, delivered courses on the Graded Care Profile, an assessment tool for neglect, and organised courses on parental mental health and disguised compliance – which were identified as needs from local case reviews. Training on supervision was also provided through the Committee *for* Health & Social Care and the sub-committee agreed a set of safeguarding supervision standards to enable the development of training and supervision policies across agencies.

The sub-committee also held a conference in conjunction with the Children and Young People's Plan in November 2019, following on from the successful joint conference held in 2018. There was a broad agenda, including feedback from the Young People's Survey, with input from members of the Youth Forum. UNICEF representatives delivered a presentation on its Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme and representatives of the South West Grid for Learning and members of the Digital Online Safety Group discussed Online Safety in a Modern World. The Alter Ego theatre company also staged a short production called Tough Love on the issue of coercive control in teenage relationships. This was followed by a discussion with the actors. Dr Lauren Wroe from the University of Bedfordshire also introduced the Contextual Safeguarding Framework developed by the university, which considers extra familial risks to children, often overlooked by existing safeguarding frameworks.

The conference was attended by a diverse range of multi-agency professionals, representatives of the Youth Forum and politicians. Feedback gathered was very positive with participants reporting greater understanding of the issues raised and valuing useful networking opportunities, enabling better communication across agencies.

The sub-committee also trialled a new online organisational standards self-assessment which was well supported. Agencies identified two areas of concern: safer recruitment and listening more to the views of children and families. Work will continue to address these issues in 2020.

## ISCP Digital Online Safety Group

*'Making the online world better for children and young people'*

The committee meet five times a year, tasked with helping to keep children and young people safe online. Attendance at the group remains strong. This year we have welcomed Emma Jones, Lead Cyber Security Officer at The Office *of the* Committee for Home Affairs to the group.

The group have sought to find a solution to the lack of resources available on island for online safety training. We are delighted to report that Paul Beasley has been seconded to the part-time post of Online Safety Advisor. He will work towards delivering the following objectives from the Children and Young People's Plan:

**PO1** *Provide access to online safety training in all schools.*

**PO2** *Provide access to training for services and adults that work with children.*

**PO3** *Work with the ISCP to provide advice and guidance about online safety to parents, professionals and the voluntary sector.*

Paul will work closely with South West Grid for Learning and his work will be vital in keeping children and young people safe in their digital world.

We continue to work closely with the UK Safer Internet Centre who attend our meetings and provide valuable updates into current trends as well as training and advice. Andrew Williams from South West Grid for Learning gave a presentation at the CYPP conference in November to raise awareness of the issues children face online.

The group has worked hard to secure engagement with the telecom providers and is proud of the partnerships now formed.

Earlier in the year the group raised concerns with the Chief of Police about the withdrawal of support for schools from the police for online safety. In response to this we have been informed that resources have now been moved around to allow support from officers to continue in schools.

This year the committee has considered the link between gaming online and gambling. Proposals have been drawn up to prevent gambling behaviours in children and young people and we hope to secure sponsorship in the near future.

Our annual event Digital Ace continues to be a key part of our work. Over 55 Island companies are involved with the day. Key messages are delivered from a number of high profile speakers



who share their thoughts on keeping safe online. The event brings technology providers together and is a celebration of the positive aspects of our digital world. The event attracts over 3,000 visitors each year and plays an important role in keeping children and young people safe in their digital world.

***Tracey Moore***

***Headteacher***

***Chair, ISCP Digital Online Safety Group***

## **Case Review Group**

The Case Review Group met twice during 2019. On both occasions it was to consider the reports of external reviews commissioned by the group.

The Case Review Group manage the process of external reviews and quality assure the reports that are submitted before reporting the findings to the ISCP. The quality assurance process also gives agencies the chance to update reviewers on progress already made as well as act on emerging lessons from the review without having to wait for a conclusion to the review process.

The final recommendations and learning from reviews are approved by the ISCP and the Learning and Improvement sub-committee are tasked with developing and monitoring action plans to address the recommendations.

At the end of 2019 the Case Review Group was also convened twice to trial a new Rapid Review process. The group included practitioners most directly involved in the case and reflected the ambition of the ISCP and the Case Review Group to develop a speedier review process that engaged directly with practitioner.

## **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

Guernsey and Alderney Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership and Jersey Safeguarding Children Partnership Board aim to meet together bi-annually to review the deaths of all children under the age of 18, excluding still births and planned terminations. The role of the panel is advisory. The panel considers the circumstances of all individual cases, contributory factors and preventability. It will then make recommendations for action and identifies any concerning patterns or trends.

No panels were held in 2019 but meetings will resume in 2020.

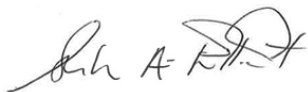
## *Closing comments from the Chair*

The Annual Report summarises a range of activities of the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership but can't possibly reflect all of the excellent safeguarding practice that takes place through individuals and organisations on a daily basis.

The safeguarding agenda for children and families is constantly evolving and the partnership needs to lead and shape multi agency safeguarding arrangements so they can continue to meet the needs of islanders.

Improving the way we listen to the voice of children, young people and families who feel at risk or have been harmed along with hearing the challenges of front line staff will ensure our safeguarding arrangements are responding to current and emerging needs.

I look forward to working with the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership as we continue to learn together to further strengthen multi agency safeguarding in 2020 and beyond

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Elliott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Elliott

Pan Island Safeguarding Chair



